

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-05 /075 W

----- 121806

R 091706Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1197

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 067

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SIX DIE IN WEEKEND VIOLENCE

1. TWO POLICEMEN SHOT NORTH BELFAST FEB. 6 ONE FATALLY
ONE MORTALLY WOUNDED. BROTHER AND SISTER COOKSTOWN FAMILY
KILLED BY BOOBY TRAP BOMB FEB. 7 AT SITE OF APPARENT ROAD
ACCIDENT WHEN THEY APPROACHED VEHICLE TO RENDER ASSISTANCE.
BOMB APPARENTLY INTENDED TRAP MEMBERS SECURITY FORCES.
BELFAST STREET SWEEPER (CATHOLIC) FOUND DEAD WITH THROAT
CUT FEB. 7 AFTER PHONE CALLER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS
"YOUNG MILITANT" CLAIMING KILLING WAS RETALIATION FOR
SHOOTING OF POLICEMEN DAY BEFORE. "YOUNG MILITANTS"
CLAIM TO BE BREAKAWAY UNIT OF ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION
(UDA) ALTHOUGH UDA HAS DENIED THIS IN PAST. YOUNG MALE
PROTESTANT FOUND DEAD WITH GUNSHOT WOUND TO HEAD
NORTH BELFAST FEB. 7. IN ADDITION BODY OF TEEN-AGE
CATHOLIC APPARENTLY KILLED IN BOMB BLAST FEB. 5
IN PORTADOWN WAS FOUND AND NORTH BELFAST MAN SHOT JAN. 27
DIED OVER WEEKEND. TWO PROTESTANT WORKMEN KILLED AND TWO
CATHOLICS WOUNDED BY GUNFIRE ON SHANKILL ROAD FORENOON FEB. 9
AS GUNMEN ATTACKED LORRY CARRYING WORKMEN TO JOBS.

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2. BELFAST -DUBLIN EVENING EXPRESS TRAIN HIT BOMB ON

TRACKS NEAR PORTADOWN FEB. 6. ONLY FOUR PEOPLE HURT AS CARS DERAILED. TRAIN CARRYING 200 PASSENGERS BUT CASUALTIES LIMITED BY FACT TRAIN MOVING SLOWLY DUE TO REPAIRS THAT STRETCH OF TRACK.

3. OF ABOVE PROVISIONAL IRA HAS CLAIMED ONLY SHOOTING OF POLICEMEN. WHILE TRAINS AND TRACK FREQUENT BOMB TARGETS THIS FIRST TIME THAT ATTEMPT MADE DIRECTLY AGAINST PASSENGERS. PROBABILITY THAT PROVISIONAL IRA RESPONSIBLE DIMINISHED BY FACT THAT FRIDAY EVENING BELFAST/DUBLIN TRAINS CARRY HIGH PROPORTION ROMAN CATHOLICS TRAVELING TO VISIT FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON WEEKEND.

4. SECURITY FORCES ARRESTED PROVISIONAL LEADERS MARTIN MC GUINNESS AND TERRY CROSSAN IN LONDONDERRY FEB. 7. MC GUINNESS ONE-TIME HEAD OF LONDONDERRY BRIGADE AND HAS BEEN ON RUN SINCE 1972 ALTHOUGH IMPRISONED TWICE IN REPUBLIC SINCE THEN FOR MEMBERSHIP IN PROVISIONALS. ARRESTS MAY HAVE COME THROUGH TIP.

SPICER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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